



Public Access Management Plan Update: Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System



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Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
Division of Water Supply Protection
Office of Watershed Management

ABSTRACT

The Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Water Supply Protection, owns 124,360 acres of land and water in the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System. DCR/DWSP manages these resources primarily for drinking water quality protection. This Plan Update explains the DCR's policies related to public access within the System. The Plan outlines control and monitoring mechanisms used to mitigate possible negative impacts from public access within the watershed system. Since 1988, the DCR has involved stakeholders in its public access policy development, review, and modification. Increasingly, the general public (local residents, land abutters, visitors, and environmental organizations) have been supportive of the DCR's policies to protect the public water supply while allowing controlled access. However, the DCR continues to receive public and political pressure to allow new recreational activities and to increase access of allowed activities within the system.

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All maps were produced by DCR/DWSP-OWM GIS staff Phil Lamothe, unless noted, using DCR and MassGIS data.

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